Met Office

August 2016

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

UK Overview

At the start of August the weather was unsettled with low pressure in charge, and wet in the south. It was generally changeable during the first fortnight, and windy at times in the first week. It was often more settled in the second half, although the 20th had a notably vigorous depression for the time of year which brought strong winds to many parts of England. Frequent southerly winds brought a spell of high temperatures over much of England, especially East Anglia and the south-east, which peaked on the 24th when a few spots reached close to 34 °C.

The UK mean temperature was 15.5 °C, which is 0.6 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Mean maximum temperatures were 1.5 to 2 °C above average in East Anglia, but closer to normal in most western areas. Mean minimum temperatures were generally slightly above normal except in northern Scotland, where a few sites fell to -1 °C on the 10th. Rainfall was 96% of average, and it was a wet month in parts of northern England and the Hebrides, but dry in East Anglia, south-east England and Northern Ireland. Sunshine was mostly rather above average except in Northern Ireland, and the UK had 111% of the long-term average overall.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 34.1 °C was recorded at Faversham (Kent) on the 24th. A minimum temperature of -1.5 °C was recorded at Kindrogan (Perthshire) on the 10th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 21st, 81.0 mm of rain fell at Seathwaite (Cumbria). A wind gust of 60 knots (69 mph) was recorded at Needles Old Battery (Isle of Wight) on the 20th.

Weather impacts

On the 3rd, a landslip caused the closure of a main road and rail route in Sutherland, leading to a temporary, but significant diversion for local traffic, and the cancellation of rail services. Unseasonably strong winds on the 7th led to the cancellation of numerous outdoor events across Scotland, and affected train services and power supplies and power outages. Fallen trees affected rail links between Dundee-Aberdeen, Glasgow-Oban and Inverness-Wick, and there were restrictions on Scotland's bridges. A 17,000 tonne oil rig ran aground at Carloway on Lewis after breaking its towing line in high winds and seas.

On the 11th and 12th, as a result of persistent heavy rain, a campsite was flooded and there was localised road flooding on Mull. The Crinan Canal was closed for safety reasons, and a landslide affected road and rail links between Fort William and Mallaig.

Unseasonably strong winds on the 19th and 20th led to disruption especially over south Wales, south-west England and the south coast. Fallen trees were reported to have caused localised travel disruption on roads across south and west Wales, the Midlands, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Hull, Cambridgeshire, Sussex and Hampshire. In addition, a number of events, such as the Northwest Wales Music Festival, and the Northants Balloon Festival were cancelled. High seas led to the deaths of three men, two women and a young boy in incidents around Britain's coasts on that weekend in Cornwall, Dorset, Essex, Jersey and Aberdeen.

On the 22nd, a number of localised flooding impacts from heavy rain were reported across Cumbria and Lancashire trains between Preston and Lancaster were cancelled after the line was flooded, a multi-agency

group formed to manage some small scale property evacuations and road closures in Bootle, Cumbria, and localised road and rail flooding was reported across other parts of Cumbria.

On the 26th, localised flooding caused traffic disruption on the A6 in Leicestershire, pockets of property flooding in west Norfolk, the village of Kirton, Lincolnshire was cut off for a time, property flooding was reported in parts of Dorset and Wiltshire, and lightning strikes were reported to have caused a Tesco roof to collapse in Boston.

On the 28th, a Medieval Festival at Beaumaris Castle in north Wales was cancelled after the site flooded, heavy rain flooded a car park at the Blyth Tall Ships Regatta, and localised travel disruption was reported across parts of Redcar and Cleveland due to flooding.

England diary of highlights

August started wet with low pressure in charge, but although unsettled weather continued through to the 13th, there were also some dry sunny days. The second half was more settled, although the 20th was very windy in the south. Southerly winds brought a spell of hot weather, mostly affecting East Anglia and the south-east, which peaked on the 23rd when some places reached 34 °C.

The mean temperature for August was 0.8 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Mean minimum temperatures were above normal in all regions, while daytime maxima were above normal in the east, by as much as 2 °C in East Anglia, but closer to normal in parts of the west. Rainfall was 92% of average, but it was wetter than average in some parts of northern England, and dry in the south-east. Sunshine was generally rather above normal, especially in the east, and England had 115% of the long-term average overall.

1st to 7th:

Rain spread from the west on the 1st, reaching eastern areas by late afternoon. The 2nd was dry but cloudy for many areas, and scattered showers developed during the day, though it was sunny in the far north. The 3rd started dry and bright for most places, although heavy showers developed during the afternoon in the north-west. The 4th had a mix of sunshine and showers, the showers heaviest in central and southern areas. It was fine and sunny on the 5th with just a few isolated showers. The 6th was warm and sunny, Faversham (Kent) recording 14.5 hours of sunshine, although isolated showers broke out in Cumbria later. The 7th was also mainly dry and bright for most, but windy.

8th to 13th:

There were isolated showers over the north-west on the 8th, but it was bright or sunny elsewhere. The 9th started sunny but turned cloudy with showers over the north spreading south-east during the day. There was a cool start to the 10th, with Redesdale Camp (Cumbria) falling to 2.3 °C overnight, then it became bright or sunny with just a few isolated showers, clouding over in the north with rain from early afternoon. Rain over the north and east on the 11th cleared away by afternoon, and it brightened up in the south but stayed cloudy in the north with further rain in parts of the north-west. It was sunny throughout in the south and east on the 12th, but cloudier elsewhere with patchy rain and showers through the afternoon and evening. The 13th had sunny spells and scattered showers, the showers mainly in the north and west.

14th to 17th:

The 14th was dry, with sunny spells in the south but cloudier in the north. Early cloud and fog down the east coast burned away to leave a sunny day everywhere on the 15th. Cloud persisted over East Anglia on the 16th, but it was warm and sunny elsewhere. On the 17th, the cloud persisted over the north and east, and it was cloudy with patchy rain over the south-west, but it was fine, sunny and warm elsewhere.

18th to 22nd:

Cloudy with patchy fog early on the 18th, clearing to sunny spells and a few showers across the south, before more cloud and rain spread in across the south-west in the evening, spreading north-eastwards. It was mainly cloudy and wet on the 19th with a band of rain moving north-eastwards, and breezy in the south-west. The 20th was mostly cloudy away from the south-east, with showers or longer spells of rain, heavy across Cumbria, where Shap recorded 57.4 mm, and Lancashire, drier across south-eastern areas and windy over the south-west and south coast where gusts reached 69 mph at Needles, Isle of Wight. The 21st was mainly cloudy with scattered showers in the morning before another band of rain spread eastwards in the afternoon and evening. Locally heavy rain over the north and east on the 22nd cleared away by late afternoon; otherwise it was mainly dry and bright, and very warm in the south-east.

23rd to 26th:

Sunny and warm or hot over most of the country on the 23rd, with temperatures exceeding 30 °C in the south-east, but clouding up from the north-west with some heavy showers for Cumbria and Northumberland. Generally hot and sunny on the 24th with Faversham (Kent) reaching 34.1 °C, but clouding over from the south-west in the late afternoon with rain and showers and scattered thunderstorms spreading north and east during the evening. It was still hot in the south-east on the 25th but heavy showers spread into central and eastern areas during the day. Dry, sunny and warm on the 26th with the south-east seeing maximum temperatures in the high 20s again and overnight temperatures remaining above 18 °C in central London.

27th to 31st:

Fronts on the 27th brought widespread downpours and thunderstorms for many, especially across the Midlands and Lincolnshire. Rain cleared away northwards early on the 28th but locally thundery showers developed widely in the afternoon. Isolated showers in the Midlands cleared in the morning on the 29th, leaving everywhere dry and sunny. It stayed cloudy over the west on the 30th, but was sunny elsewhere. Bright and sunny either side of a band of cloud and patchy rain that moved south-eastwards during the 31st.

Wales diary of highlights

August began cloudy and wet with low pressure in charge, and the first fortnight continued mostly unsettled but with some dry, bright interludes as well. There were more significant settled spells during the second half of the month, although it was wet and windy around the 20th.

The mean temperature for August was 0.6 °C above the 1981-2010 average. Rainfall was 97% of average, and sunshine was 103% of average. It was drier and sunnier than average in the north-east.

1st to 7th:

Cool, cloudy and wet on the 1st, the rain persistent and heavy all day across much of South Wales with 54mm recorded at Mumbles (West Glamorgan) The 2nd was wet and increasingly windy, especially across the south. The 3rd was also windy, with sunshine and showers. The 4th again had a mix of sunshine and showers, the showers dying away into the evening leaving most places fine and dry. After a cloudy morning on the 5th, the afternoon saw sunshine and showers, but the showers cleared to leave a fine dry evening. The 6th was quite warm and sunny and mostly dry, if breezy. Breezy but bright, even sunny for most of the 7th, but it turned wet and very windy in the north from early evening.

8th to 13th:

The 8th was bright or sunny with just a few isolated showers. Starting dry and sunny on the 9th, but cloudier with showers for northern parts by afternoon. Bright with a few isolated showers early on the 10th, turning

cloudy with rain for the north in the afternoon. The 11th had outbreaks of showery rain over the north but it was dry and fairly bright elsewhere. Largely dry on the 12th with sunny spells throughout but a few showers in northern and western regions through the late afternoon and evening. Sunny spells on the 13th, but with scattered showers in the morning.

14th to 17th:

Dry but fairly cloudy for most on the 14th. The 15th was a sunny day everywhere, with St Athan (South Glamorgan) and Valley (Gwynedd) recording 13.7 hours of sunshine. It was warm and sunny throughout on the 16th, with temperatures into the mid-20s Celsius. The 17th started dry and sunny, but turned cloudy during the morning with some showery rain in places.

18th to 22nd:

The 18th started cloudy and misty with a few showers, but sunny intervals developed through the day before more cloud and rain spread in across the south-west later. The 19th was cloudy and wet with rain moving north-eastwards, followed by drier and brighter weather with a few showers, and it was breezy around western and southern coasts. The 20th was mostly cloudy with heavy showers or longer spells of rain, and it was windy with a maximum gust of 68 mph at Capel Curig (Gwynedd). The 21st was cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, and persistent heavy rain spread eastwards in the afternoon and evening. It was cloudy with rain and low cloud persisting around the north and west on the 22nd.

23rd to 31st:

It was sunny and warm for most on the 23rd, and Cardiff Bute Park (South Glamorgan) reached 28.0 °C, but it turned a little cloudier in the afternoon with some rain for the very far north. Bright or sunny and warm on the 24th, clouding over from the south in the evening with some showers. Warm and humid on the 25th, and mostly cloudy with afternoon rain spreading east. The 26th was breezy in the north but stayed mostly dry and warm with plenty of sunshine. After a cool start to the 27th, with a minimum of 3.8 °C at Sennybridge (Powys), it was warm with isolated showers, heaviest in the south-east in the afternoon. It was bright on the 28th but with rain or showers for the south. Everywhere was sunny on the 29th. The 30th was also sunny for most but it was cloudy near the west coast. There was rain early and late on the 31st, but some sunshine in between.

Scotland diary of highlights

August began unsettled with westerly winds, and the changeable theme continued for the first fortnight, and it was windy at times in the first week. The second half of the month was more settled, and there was a fine spell between the 15th and 18th.

The mean temperature for August was 0.3°C above the long-term average. It was a wet month in the Hebrides but drier over Fife and Aberdeenshire, with 102% of average rainfall overall. Sunshine was 109% of average, and it was a sunny month in the north-west of the Scottish mainland, but with close to average sunshine over much of the south and duller over Shetland.

1st to 7th:

After a cool start, the 1st was bright with most places staying dry apart from Shetland. The 2nd was increasingly wet with a narrow band of rain, but it turned showery later. Cloudy on the 3rd, and rain over western parts spread to all areas by late afternoon. It was bright with showers on the 4th, the showers most frequent over the east and Border regions. The 5th was generally cloudy, with showers in the west becoming widespread and locally heavy from mid-afternoon onwards. It turned increasingly windy on the 6th with rain spreading from the west, especially heavy in the north-west. Gusts reached 68 mph at Loch Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty) on the 7th and rain spread from the west to all areas from late afternoon, followed by blustery showers.

8th to 14th:

It was less windy on the 8th with sunshine and frequent, blustery showers. It was generally cloudy on the 9th with showers in the west becoming widespread. After a cold but bright or sunny start in the east on the 10th, with -1.5 °C at Kindrogan (Perthshire), rain in the west spread across to all areas by early evening, giving a total of 70.2 mm at Loch Shiel (Inverness-shire). There was heavy persistent rain for the bulk of the country on the 11th, slightly drier in Border areas. The 12th had a dry and cloudy start away from the west, where patchy rain and showers spread to all regions in the afternoon and evening. Scattered showers in the west on the 13th, spreading to all regions by the afternoon. Mainly cloudy and largely dry with a few light scattered showers on the 14th, the best of any sunny spells in the north-east.

15th to 18th:

The 15th started cloudy, especially in the west, but the cloud burned off to leave a fine, dry day everywhere. It was warmer and sunny throughout on the 16th, with 14.4 hours of sunshine recorded at Kinloss (Morayshire). Cloud in the east burned off during the morning of the 17th, leaving all areas fine, sunny and warm, and Kinlochewe (Ross & Cromarty) reached 27.4 °C, but with cloud and patchy rain over the far west. The 18th dawned cloudy with patchy fog and a little rain across the Western Isles, but cloud melted away to leave bright or sunny spells and it became warm.

19th to 23rd:

The 19th started mainly cloudy with rain soon arriving in the south-west; drier and brighter for northern areas but clouding over with rain pushing north-eastwards through the afternoon and evening. Rain cleared away northwards on the 20th, leaving northern parts mainly dry with some sunshine but southern areas cloudy with outbreaks of heavy rain or showers. The 21st was mainly cloudy with patchy rain, occasionally heavy across central and Border regions, and isolated showers further north. It was generally cloudy on the 22nd, with rain over the west and south clearing away by midday, then turning brighter and warm over Aberdeenshire. Cloudy everywhere with rain for most places on the 23rd.

24th to 31st:

It was dry, sunny and warm everywhere for most of the 24th, but cloud increased from late afternoon with some patchy rain for the Western Isles. Mainly dry and bright on the 25th with only isolated showers for the Borders. The 26th was a day of sunshine and showers, the heaviest and most frequent showers in the north-west. Generally dry and bright on the 27th with only some isolated showers in the north. The 28th had a mix of sunshine and showers. After a dry start on the 29th, rain spread to all areas except the Borders during the afternoon and evening. Cloud persisted over the Borders on the 30th, but otherwise it was bright or sunny until rain reached the west coast in the evening. It was cloudy with patchy rain for most places on the 31st, but drier and brighter over Aberdeenshire.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

August started unsettled with low pressure dominating the weather, and it remained unsettled during the first fortnight, and windy at times in the first week. There was a brief warm sunny spell mid-month, then the second half was generally drier and warmer, but with many cloudy days.

The mean temperature for August was 0.7 °C above the long-term average. Rainfall was 70% of average, and it was driest relative to normal in the east. Sunshine was 95% of average, and was generally near average in the east but below average in the west.

1st to 8th:

Dry and warm on the 1st but turning increasingly cloudy from the south. The 2nd was cloudy, humid and wet through the morning, especially along North Channel coasts, turning showery later. Cloudy, wet and windy on the 3rd. Sunshine and showers on the 4th, the showers dying away to leave a fine, dry evening. It was cloudy for most of the 5th with afternoon showers, clearing to a fine dry evening. The 6th was humid, cloudy and increasingly windy, with narrow bands of rain passing over some areas. A blustery day on the 7th, which turned very wet from late afternoon. The 8th was a day of sunshine and showers, and it was windy too with Orlock Head (County Down) recording a gust of 52 mph.

9th to 14th:

There was a bright start to the 9th but it soon clouded over with rain or showers persisting through the day. The 10th was cloudy and wet, but it turned drier by the evening. The 11th was cloudy with patchy rain persisting all day. A cloudy but dry start on the 12th gave way to patchy rain and showers as the day progressed. The 13th was quite cloudy with showers through the day, but some sunny intervals too. It was cloudier on the 14th with scattered light showers.

15th to 23rd:

Early cloud burned away on the 15th to leave a fine sunny day. It was warm and sunny throughout on the 16th, with a maximum of 24.7 °C at Derrylin (County Fermanagh), and Magilligan (County Londonderry) recorded 13.5hrs of bright sunshine. It was cloudy and wet all day on the 17th. The 18th was cloudy with scattered showers in the morning and again late in the evening. The 19th was mainly cloudy and wet with a band of rain moving north-eastwards, producing 26.0 mm of rain at Trassey Slievenaman (County Down), but it turned drier and brighter from mid-afternoon with a few showers. The 20th had sunshine and scattered showers. The 21st was mainly cloudy with scattered showers or longer spells of rain. It was bright and fairly warm with some showery rain in the morning on the 22nd. Rain on the morning of the 23rd, but becoming lighter and patchier during the afternoon.

24th to 31st:

It was dry and sunny for most on the 24th, with some showers over the very far west of the Province. The 25th was warm and stayed mostly dry before rain spread in during the evening, heaviest in the west. The 26th was bright and breezy, with scattered showers in the afternoon. It was dry on the 27th, and warm but mostly cloudy. The 28th was a warm, dry and sunny day. A cool start to the 29th, Katesbridge (County Down) falling to 3.1 °C overnight, followed by a bright or sunny morning, but clouding over in the afternoon. Similar conditions on the 30th with patchy rain reaching the west of the Province by early evening. Patchy rain in the morning of the 31st cleared away but it remained cloudy.

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